.. . . .

App. No. 10/702,202 Amendment A

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 15-44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Fourteen claims are pending in the application: Claims 1-14.

Claims 1-44 are subject to a restriction requirement under 35 USC § 121. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect the claims of Group I: claims 1-14, and cancel claims 15-44 without prejudice.

Consistent with this election, Applicants elect the subject matter of species I: cathode plate. It is submitted that all of pending claims 1-14 read on this species.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858)552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Dated: July 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Scott J. Mengaini Reg. No. 42,880

Address all correspondence to: FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY 120 South LaSalle Street, Ste. 1600 Chicago, IL 60603 (858) 552-1311